

February 2007



Birch Pond Beacon

News from Casco, Maine

What are your goals?

This is a question that each Netop camper considers at camp. With a counselors' help, campers set goals in each area of the "four spokes" philosophy in order to become more well-rounded and balanced. A few weeks ago, counselors sent letters to their campers encouraging them to keep working on the goals they set last summer. It's incredible how a simple process can achieve such results. Here are some real examples:

- **Social:** a.) make a new friend at school, b.) be more patient with my little sister, c.) do chores at home without arguing!
- **Physical:** a.) make the soccer team at school, b.) do at least 20 pushups a day, c.) drink more water instead of soda
- **Mental:** a.) read one book each month, b.) get an "A" in math, c.) learn guitar
- **Spiritual:** a.) take time to reflect or pray every day, b.) join a community service project, c.) learn more about my religion

More tents!



Three new tents are being added, bringing the total to 12 tents for 2007.

Adventure awaits campers Saco, Mt. Washington & More

Last summer, campers paddled the Saco River, climbed Mt. Washington and hiked trails along the Kanamangas Highway. While the winds atop Mt. Washington (97 mph) forced our hikers to turn back early, the excitement and exhilaration among the campers was clear. This year, we are very pleased that **David Daddio** of Columbia, MD is joining Netop as a counselor and trip leader. David is graduating in May with a degree in Environmental Studies from the U. of Maryland. An Eagle Scout, he brings a wealth of experience to Netop's trips program. David's initial plan is to upgrade the trip tents, as rumor has it they may have sprung a leak or two last year (?!). Not all bad though...Sam Silbiger was inspired to write a Netop song about the experience.



Maryland Crew! University of Maryland counselors include senior David Daddio (left) and freshman Andrew Hallowell (center). At right is Tommy Hester of Silver Spring, MD, son of alumnus Tim Hester ('68-'77). Tommy will be attending Williams College in the fall.

A triple play of birthdays!!!

Netop is celebrating key milestones:

1 The Lodge is 80 years old! Built in 1927, the Netop Lodge was formerly the Crescent Lake Dance Pavilion. It was known as a classy place to dance and socialize.

2 The Birch Pond Beacon turns 50! Fred Brooking (alum '57-'59, living in Celebration, FL) created the name and edited Netop's first newsletter in 1957.

3 David Webster was born in Sept. '06! Doug & Kelly Webster welcomed the arrival of little David. Best wishes to the family!



The majestic Lodge from an earlier time. It's a long home run, but that roof may not be safe with camper Brad Peirce at the plate!

Join the team for June 21-24 Volunteer Weekend promises fun & spirit

Come for a day or the weekend and help us get ready. Here's what you can expect:

7:00 a.m. innovative wake-up call
 7:15 a.m. breakfast by Chef Eric
 8:00 a.m. morning assignments
 8:30 a.m. crews in action
 8:40 a.m. Fred Coons takes a break
 11:30 a.m. quick swim in Birch Pond
 12:15 p.m. lunch & rest hour
 1:30 p.m. crews mix/re-assemble
 1:40 p.m. Fred Coons takes a nap
 4:30 p.m. fish, swim, hoops, pong, relax
 6:00 p.m. cookout!
 Evening nostalgia, relax, dessert
 (or just watch Karl Block keep working)

Confirm your plans with Steve as soon as possible.

Netop shines at camp fairs



The Gordon family (Larry '66-'82, Sam '06+, Lily & Amy) supports Netop at Concord fair

Netop has been represented at camp fairs recently from Maine to Delaware. The reaction from parents and kids to Netop (program, place, philosophy, people) has been very positive and additional fairs have been scheduled. Come see us if you can:

Feb 23 Arlington, VA
 Mar 1 Malvern, PA
 Mar 17 Exeter, NH
 Mar 18 Nashua, NH
 Mar 20 Bedford, NH

Netop Nuggets



A special thanks to **Wayne Russell** ('73-'82) for donating funds that will be used to build a new lifeguard tower at the waterfront this summer!



Plans are being developed to create a craft house/wood shop at Netop. The former laundry house adjacent to the baseball field will be renovated and equipped as a craft house. Who will make the medicine stick?



Netop wants your bottlecaps! **T.C. Feick** ('81-'83) donated his big collection last year for Klondike Day, but we need more. So, save up. On Klondike Day & Carnival Night, each bottlecap is worth \$5. (Sorry, no cash redemption value.)